

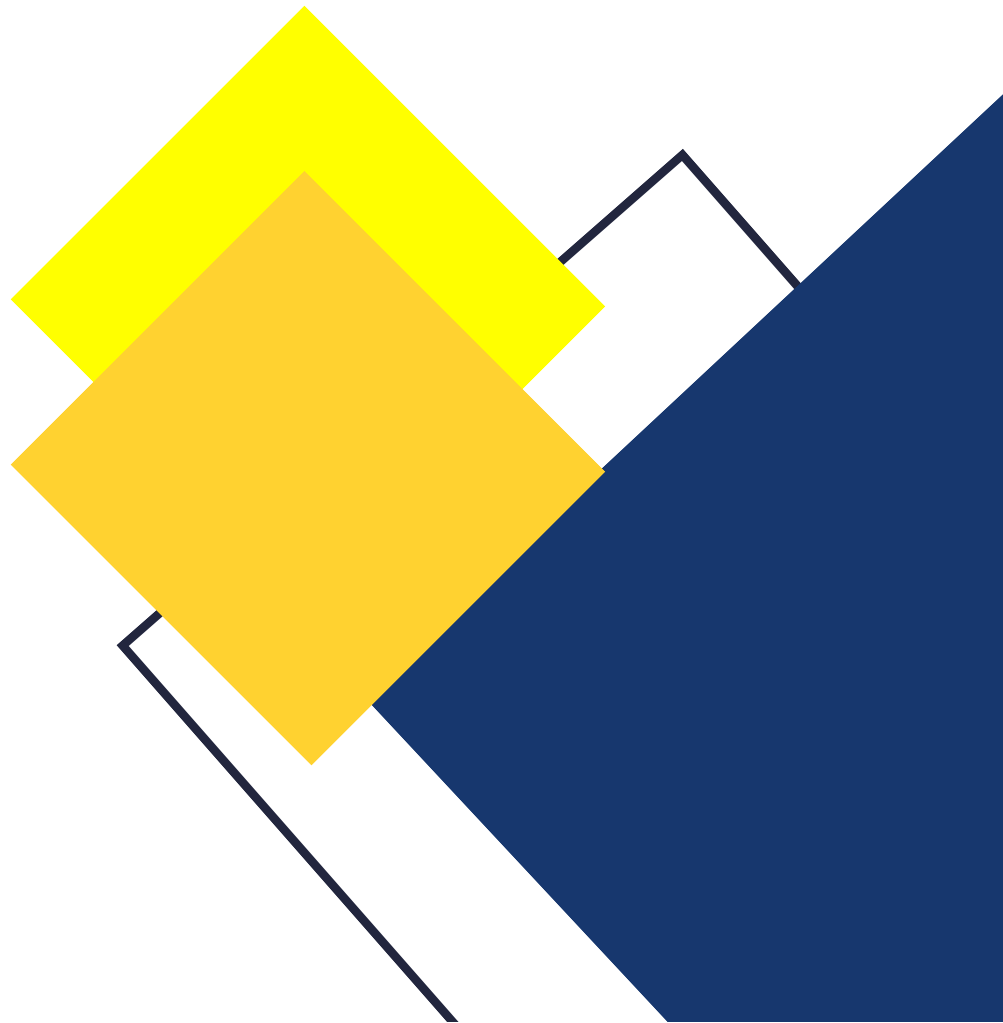


**Centre for the Study of Human Rights**  
**Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka**

**Upholding 30 Years of Excellence in Human Rights Education & Research**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2021**



# CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

---

## Annual Report 2021

CSHR

Faculty of Law

University of Colombo

94, Cumaratunga Munidasa Mawatha

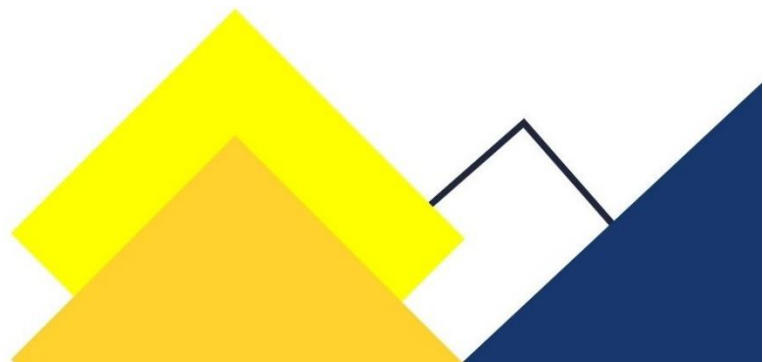
Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Tel: 94-11-2500879

94-11-2503017

Email: [cshr.humanrightscentre@gmail.com](mailto:cshr.humanrightscentre@gmail.com) | [info@cshr.cmb.ac.lk](mailto:info@cshr.cmb.ac.lk)

Website: <http://cshr.cmb.ac.lk>





**Upholding 30 Years of Excellence in Human Rights Education & Research**  
**Centre for the Study of Human Rights**  
**Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka**

### ***Our Vision***

*To create a nation with a rights consciousness in which the dignity and rights of all people are respected*

### ***Our Mission***

*To be a centre of excellence for human rights education and research using a multidisciplinary approach*

### **Acknowledgement**

*Our Sincere gratitude to the National Languages Equality Advancement Project funded by the Ministry of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs, National Child Protection Authority, Department of Probation, Department of Police, Department of Prisons, Armed Forces of Sri Lanka, the University of Mahidol, The International Bridges to Justice (IBJ), civil society organisations and partners who collaborated with the CSHR in spreading the message of human rights among the wider community during the year.*

## Message by the Director



It is with great pleasure that I present this message for the Annual Report 2021.

This year is a memorable year for the CSHR, as it celebrates 30 years of excellence in Human Rights Education and Research, with a range of activities and webinars.

This year has been a year of great achievements in relation to the academic programmes conducted by the CSHR too. Students' enrolment rate has been increased in this year compared to the previous years as a result of major promotional campaigns that were carried out.

In relation to Human Rights Capacity Building, the CSHR conducted a tailor-made Training Programme for 300 officers over a period of a six months in collaboration with the National Child Protection Authority. The CSHR also conducted several webinars on key thematic areas during the year for the public.

The CSHR, with the support of National Languages Equality Advancement Project (NLEAP), embarked on pivotal research on Language Rights, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment with the objective of exploring the impact of language rights policies and programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment in Sri Lanka.

One of the spotlight events of this years' calendar is the ceremonial opening of the Justice C G Weeramantry's collection of books. It was a privilege for the CSHR to have such a valuable collection used by this world renowned great scholar and jurist.

My sincere gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, Dean of the Faculty of Law and the members of the Board of Management who has immensely contributed to the success of the projects and programmes of the CSHR throughout the year along with other partner institutes and persons, and the staff for their hard work towards the success of all programmes.

### **Professor Wasantha Seneviratne**

*Professor of Public and International Law (Chair)*

*Director, Centre for the Study of Human Rights,*

*Head-Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo*

## Message by the Deputy Director



It is with great pleasure that I pen this message for the Annual Report of 2021 of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights.

This year, CSHR conducted a number of educational programmes which were on hold during the Covid 19 pandemic and has achieved a remarkable increase in the number of student population.

As a Centre dedicated to Human Rights Research, CSHR carried out the research on Language Rights, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment with the support of NLEAP which will have a significantly impact on the Sri Lankan legal and policy landscape.

Addressing the key objectives of CSHR, webinars and capacity building programmes were conducted with the collaboration of major stakeholders from the state sector and civil society organisations.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge with appreciation the support from all our partners and the staff in realizing our mission to propagate human rights values across Sri Lanka. I wish to thank the funders of CSHR, Professor Chandrika N Wijeyaratne, Vice Chancellor, Professor Indira Nanayakkara, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Wasantha Seneviratne, Director of CSHR and the members of the Board of Management for their valuable support.

**M. A. M. Hakeem**

*LL.B. (Hons.) (UoC), LL.M. (Malaya), Attorney-at-Law*

*Senior Lecturer, Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo*

## Contents

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Our Profile.....                               | 1-2   |
| Human Rights Education.....                    | 3-10  |
| Capacity Building.....                         | 11-12 |
| Human Rights Research.....                     | 13-15 |
| Knowledge Sharing.....                         | 16-17 |
| Special Events.....                            | 18-23 |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations..... | 19-23 |
| Administrative Bodies.....                     | 24-25 |
| CSHR Team.....                                 | 26-28 |

---

## A SNAPSHOT OF 2021



**Over 350**

Students Educated



**2 Major**

research projects  
undertaken



**3 Webinars**

on thematic areas  
conducted



**Over 300**

officers of different disciplines  
trained through Capacity  
Building Programmes



**85 New Books**

added to the Resource  
Centre Collection





## OUR PROFILE

The experience of three decades in the field have imparted with the Centre for the Study on Human Rights (CSHR) the understanding and the capability to gauge the pulse of the society to craft new pathways to make its initiatives felt. CSHR came into existence in 1991 with the vision of creating a nation with a rights consciousness in which the dignity and rights of all people are respected; at a time when the human rights situation in the country was at a critical juncture due to the ethnic conflict and the war, as well as the southern insurrection. Human rights violations and abuses were unprecedented, widespread and atrocious. The University of Colombo responding to the need of the hour in the country, brought human rights education into the public domain through the creation of CSHR. The CSHR is a non-profit educational institution attached to the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. Its mandate is to conduct and facilitate human rights education and research programmes for the university community and the community at large, with the mission to be a Centre of excellence for human rights education and research using a multidisciplinary approach.

Being the first institution of its kind within the university system, CSHR gained recognition and acceptance as a leading human rights educational institute, which aims to disseminate human rights education to a wide cross-section of the population. During its 30-year existence, CSHR has carried out a wide range of activities in human rights education and research, reaching out to officials of the armed forces, police, prison officers and inmates, officers attached to the administrative arms of the State apparatus at all levels, lawyers, academics and other professionals at all levels, the university community, education sector, school children, community leaders, physically and socially marginalized groups and the public.

CSHR's activities are conducted under five key pillars. These are Education, Research, Capacity Building, Knowledge Services, and Institutional Development.

In terms of Education, CSHR conducts Human Rights programmes from postgraduate to certificate level, catering to the needs of diverse stakeholders and enhancing their understanding of their Constitutionally guaranteed rights.

In the area of Research, the CSHR carries out practically applicable research. Research conducted has been in relation to remand prisoners, legal aid in prisons, rehabilitation programmes in prisons, IDP's, children in remand homes, command responsibility, status of

rights in the Eastern province and education level of Veddas, Exploring the concept of violence within post war Sri Lankan society, language rights and gender, among others.

With regard to Capacity Building, the CSHR continued to strengthen its partners in the area of rights and responsibilities with the objective of protecting the rights of others as well as theirs. The groups involved in capacity building are secondary and tertiary school students, preservice and in-service teachers, academics and non-academics, media personnel, differently abled persons, armed forces, police and prison officers, inmates, quazis, rural and plantation communities and the public among others towards their empowerment.

In the area of Knowledge Services, the CSHR continued to provide services and information through its Resource Centre to students, academics, researchers, and the public. The Centre also provided information through the electronic media in the form of the E resources accessible throughout the year.

In terms of Institutional Development, CSHR focuses on delivering programmes of high quality to those with whom the CSHR works. Towards this end, the CSHR made every effort to provide opportunities to its Staff to improve their knowledge and skills, which will contribute to enhanced programmes and to the creation of a culture of human rights in the country.

With the main focus on human rights education and research, the CSHR is on its way towards becoming the key institute and the focal point of human rights education and research.

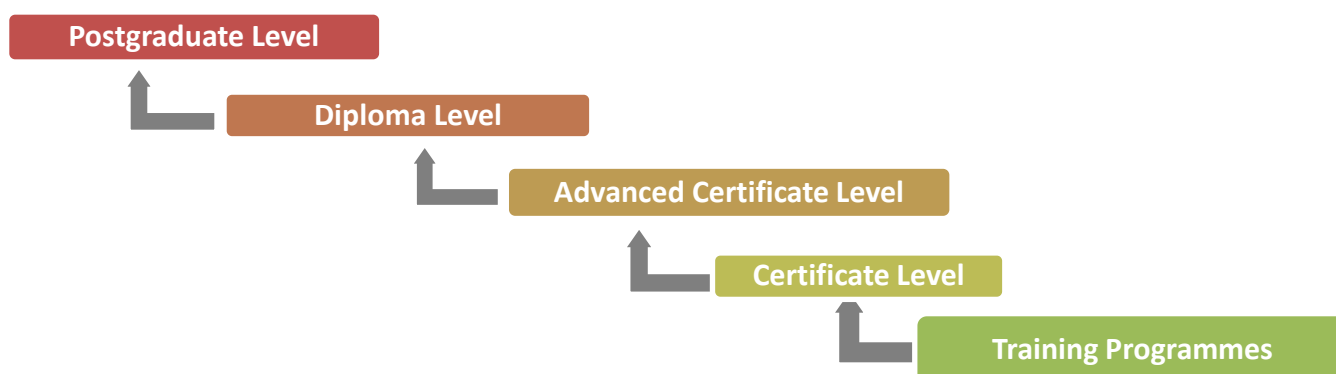
## KEY AREAS

- **HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION**
- **CAPACITY BUILDING**
- **HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH**
- **KNOWLEDGE SHARING**

### HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Human rights have evolved into a distinct academic discipline with theoretical and practical importance, drawing inspiration from several fields of study such as philosophy, law, public administration, law enforcement, national security, public policy formulation and implementation etc. Learning human rights also has become important for those involved in careers in law, public administration, the military, development work and members of civil society.

Human Rights Education is one of the thematic areas under the CSHR's mandate. The education programmes were launched back in 1996 with the intention of providing the basic knowledge on Human Rights to the public to suit the country's need at the period. In par with its vision CSHR makes use of formal educational programmes that cater to different educational levels with the aim of enhancing the understanding of the multidimensional nature of human rights. Target groups of these programmes consist of state actors, undergraduates, graduates, private sector entities, officers of law enforcement agencies, security forces and the public. The duration of these programmes varies from a minimum of three months to one year. CSHR adopts diverse, innovative and student oriented instructing modes in disseminating knowledge and student evaluation. The following educational programmes were carried out during the year.



## CSHR VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

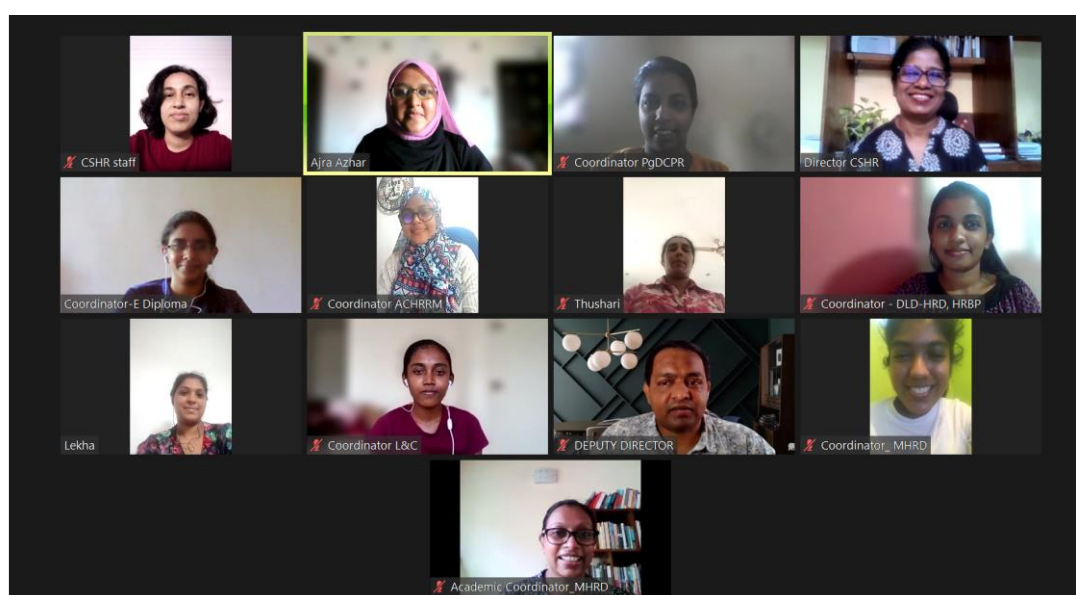
### MEET OUR CORDINATORS

## VIRTUAL OPEN DAY



CSHR held its first Open Day virtually on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September in order to address the queries of prospective students who are interested in joining all the courses from Master's to Certificate level. Over 100

participants who are interested in the programmes joined to clarify their doubts in relation to the courses conducted and gathered more information on the enrollment process and the content of the programmes.



## POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

### MASTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATISATION – APMA PROGRAMME

The Asia Pacific Master of Human Rights and Democratisation (APMA) is an interdisciplinary intensive one-year postgraduate degree that reflects the inseparable links between human rights, democracy, peace and development in the region. Designed for mid-career professionals and highly motivated undergraduates, the degree offers students a unique opportunity to engage firsthand with regional and international human rights issues, and to interact with internationally renowned human rights academics, practitioners and experts. The APMA programme was launched in 2010 in collaboration with partner universities of the Asia Pacific

region, including the Mahidol University (Thailand) as the coordinating partner, Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia) and Kathmandu School of Law (Nepal) and the Ateneo de Manila Law School (the Philippines). The Inauguration of the APMA Colombo for 2020/21 was held via Zoom on 18<sup>th</sup> February. 06 students from the Asia Pacific region joined for their second semester in Colombo. APMA programme is co-funded by the European Commission through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

### **MASTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIZATION (LOCAL) PROGRAMME**

The local Master's degree programme (MHRD) was introduced in 2014 parallel to the Asia Pacific programme to cater to the local student community who prefer to extend their knowledge on Human Rights in Sri Lanka. It is a multidisciplinary programme of study catering to mid-career professional from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. The degree offers students a unique opportunity to engage first-hand with regional and international human rights as well as democratisation issues, and to interact with internationally acclaimed academics, practitioners and experts. The programme is linked to the APMA Programme, currently coordinated by the University of Mahidol in Thailand, and hence, students have the opportunity to interact with a group of international students from the Asia Pacific Region in the Second Semester. Inauguration of the MHRD 2021/2022 was conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021, on Zoom Video Conferencing Platform. 34 students were enrolled for the MHRD program this year. Due to the prevailing situation of the country the entire program has been held using Zoom and Moodle Learning Management System platforms.





## POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CHILD PROTECTION AND RIGHTS

The One year postgraduate degree programme is for Academics, Government officers and law enforcing officers who deal with issues pertaining to children, personnel who engage in work in the child protection sector, child rights and human rights activists, journalists, teachers and other interested persons and professionals engaged in protecting and promoting child rights and preventing child abuse in the society and the interested members of civil society. Basic understanding of concepts of child rights, evolution of child rights, related international and domestic legal framework and practical application of child rights are discussed through the curriculum of the programme. The programme is conducted in Sinhala, Tamil and English mediums.

The Inauguration of the batch of 2021/2022 Programme was successfully held through the Zoom online conference on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Nearly 120 students were enrolled in the programme for this year. Lectures were conducted via Zoom weekly Saturday and Sunday for all three mediums (Sinhala, Tamil and English) throughout the year.

### The “Zoom Along” Talent Show



The “Zoom Along” Talent Show organized by the Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Rights 2020/21 batch was successfully held via Zoom on the 26 June 2021. The key objectives of this gathering were to minimize the stress caused by the covid 19 and promote the integration among the students who represent all three medium and never meet each other. The main objective of this event was to relieve the stress among the students caused by the Covid 19

pandemic situation. Another objective of the event was to promote social integrity among students learning all three languages as they did not meet face to face. The first ever online students' get-together consists of various entertainment such as songs, drama, dialogue and some academic programs and speeches of teachers. All the students (around 80) attended the programme and the event was made further validated by the participation of the Dean, Faculty of Law, the Director and the Deputy Director of the CSHR, Resource Persons of the programme, and CSHR staff. Both students and staff enjoyed the programme and it refreshed the entire course and promoted the goodwill among all students.

## **DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **DISTANCE LEARNING DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY – DLDHRD**

The objective of this programme is to provide academic understanding of the core principles of Human Rights and Democracy with unique consideration to current the trend. Distance mode of education will enable participants who are working at the grass root level to enhance the necessary skills to further their profession, towards making a positive impact on the protection and promotion of Human Rights and Democracy in the wider society.

The batch of 2020/21 has completed the face-to-face sessions and will be submitting the final Extended essay in March 2022 to complete the Diploma.

The inauguration of the batch of 2021/22 was held through Zoom on 14<sup>th</sup> of December. 17 students selected for the Sinhala Medium while 36 students enrolled for the Tamil Medium.

### **E DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS**

This course is intended to give the participants an introduction to both international human rights norms and standards and domestic implementation of human rights and fundamental rights standards. The diploma can also serve as a steppingstone for further studies in Human Rights, including post-graduate studies courses provided by the University of Colombo.

Orientation of the E Diploma in Human Rights second batch of the year 2020/21 was held on 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 through Zoom. The Orientation was conducted by the Moodle Administrator and the first lecture on Introduction to Human Rights, referencing and assignment writing was conducted by Dr. Nishara Mendis. Lecture sessions of Module one to five were conducted through zoom during the year.



The final examination of the first batch of 2020/21 was held on 11 July 2021 as an open book online examination due to the pandemic situation. 22 students sat for the examination.

The Inauguration of the batch of 2021/2022 Programme was successfully held virtually on 14<sup>th</sup> December. 33 students enrolled in the programme for this year.

### **DIPLOMA IN HUMAN RIGHTS BASED POLICING**

This Diploma was designed based on the findings of the project on Enhancing Human Rights Protection (EHRP) implemented by the CSHR and the Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal, in collaboration with the University of Sydney, Australia. This programme intends to formulate the tested strategy into a formal training programme designed especially for Police personnel in Sri Lanka. The programme is offered in both Sinhala and Tamil mediums with funding from the Department of Police.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the sessions of the batch 2020/21 were conducted online successfully. The mid-term test and presentations of the programme were also completed successfully online.

The next phase of the course is based on four workshops. The objective of the workshops is to empower participants to adapt to the professionalism of the police service through enhanced skills such as effective communication, stress management and human dignity.

The inaugural ceremony of the new batch of 2021/22 was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 via Zoom. 43 students were enrolled for this program.

### **CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### **CERTIFICATE IN LAW AND THE CITIZEN**

The Law and the Citizen is a three-month certificate program offered by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR), University of Colombo. This course aims to help the candidates who are interested in learning to enhance their basic knowledge on law in their early and mid-career. Not only that but also, it's playing a key role as a foundation course for Diploma level courses offered by CSHR. The candidates who are following the course can gain the knowledge on the very basics of the relevant areas, particularly emphasizing on the most important aspects, namely, history and background of Law, domestic law, fundamental rights, Criminal and Civil laws, norms, and principles related to Law mechanisms of implementing these regimes. Resource persons are

invited from specialized fields and Public Services such as Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Attorney General's Department, Prison and Police Department and so on.

Totally there were 13 participants who are University students from the Law and Arts faculty and the general public who are interested in learning the basics of Law. Currently, the course is instructed in Sinhala medium, but the course is offered in both Sinhala and Tamil Languages. The lectures were conducted physically and online mode. Overall course modules were completed by 17<sup>th</sup> November. The final assignment which is an individual presentation was completed on 11<sup>th</sup> December. 13 students completed the programme and qualified for the Awarding Ceremony.

### **CERTIFICATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

The Human Rights and Fundamental Rights is a three-month certificate program offered by CSHR. This course is an introduction to Human Rights (HR) and Fundamental Rights (FR). It focuses on the very basics of the relevant areas, particularly emphasizing the most important aspects, namely history and background of HR and FR, domestic law, fundamental rights, international treaties, norms, and principles related to HR and FR and mechanisms of implementing these regimes.

The course is intended to not only give the participants an introduction to human rights and fundamental rights norms, policies and standards, but also as a foundation course for Diploma level courses offered by the CSHR and to serve as a steppingstone for developing expertise in specialized areas of human rights and practice.

The course is instructed in both Tamil and Sinhala medium. Five participants completed the course successfully and qualified to receive the Certificate.

### **CERTIFICATE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS –PUTTLAM (Tamil Medium)**

The target groups of this 3 months programme are the employees of public and private sector, human rights activists and other interested candidates, who are keen to know the basics of human rights and fundamental rights. This course designed based on Puttlam district and funded by FRIENDS Organization (NGO). 28 students completed the programme and qualified for the Awarding Ceremony.

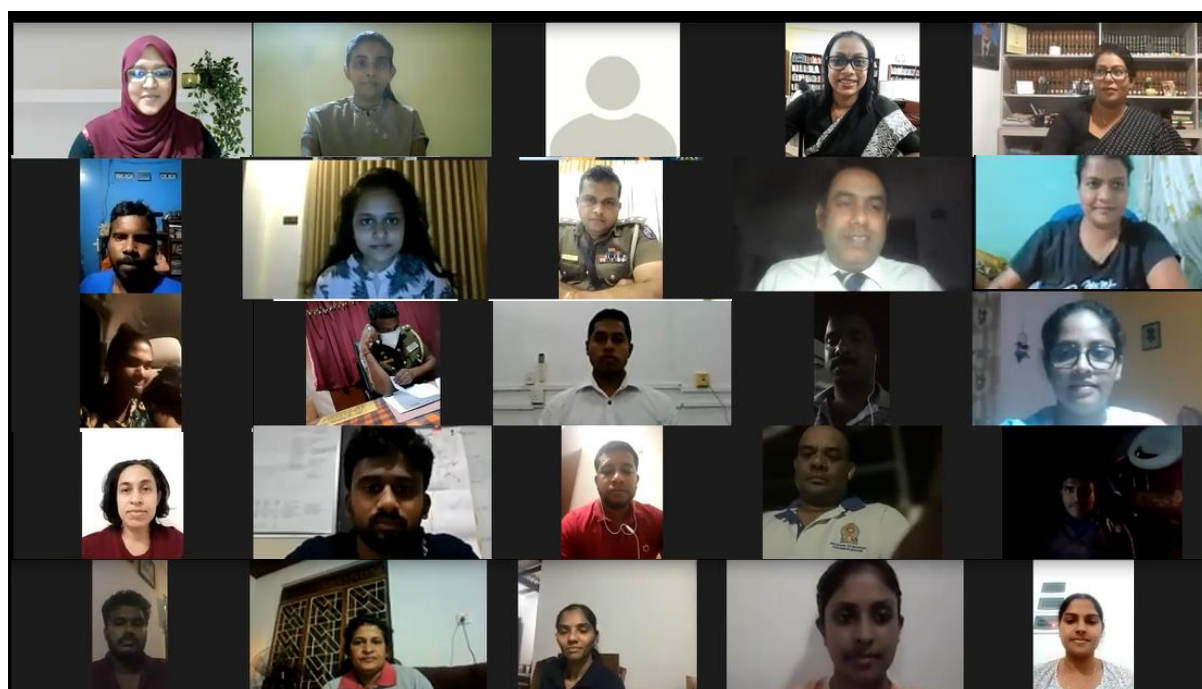
|    | Name of the Programme   | No of Students |
|----|---|----------------|
| 01 | Master of Human Rights and Democratization                              | 41             |
| 02 | Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protect and Rights                        | 128            |
| 03 | Distance Learning Diploma in Human Rights and Democracy                 | 31             |
| 04 | Diploma in Human Rights based Policing                                  | 40             |
| 05 | E-Diploma in Human Rights   | 33             |
| 06 | Advanced Certificate in Child Care and Rights                           | 40             |
| 07 | Advanced Certificate in Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law | 15             |
| 08 | Certificate in Child Care and Rights                                    | 11             |
| 09 | Certificate in Human Rights and Fundamental Rights                      | 29             |
|    | Total   | 368            |

Table 1. Summary of student enrollments 2021

### Highlights of the Inauguration Ceremony of the Programmes

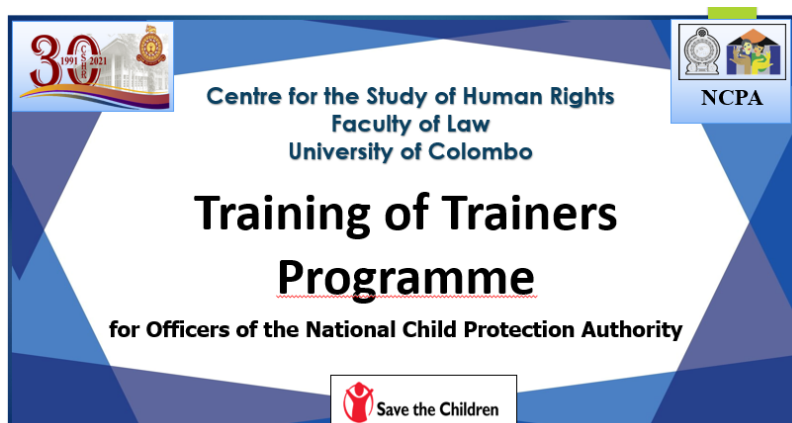


Keynote Speech by  
Ms. Milani Salpitikoral  
*Attorney-at-Law*  
*Founder of Child Protection Force*



## CAPACITY BUILDING

### TRAINING OF TRAINERS PROGRAMME FOR OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITY (NCPA)



The Training of Trainers Programme organized by the Center for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR), University of Colombo was conducted in collaboration with the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), Sri Lanka. It was one of

the most important programmes amongst the courses conducted by the CSHR. As an institution that value language diversity, the CSHR made this training course available to officers in both Sinhala and Tamil languages.

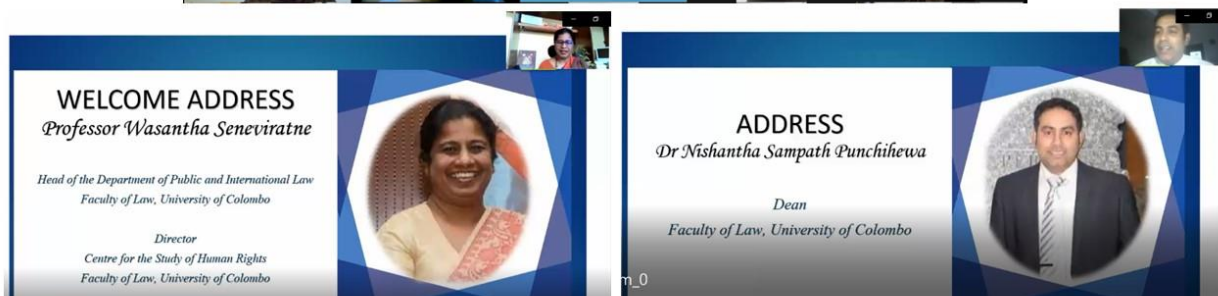
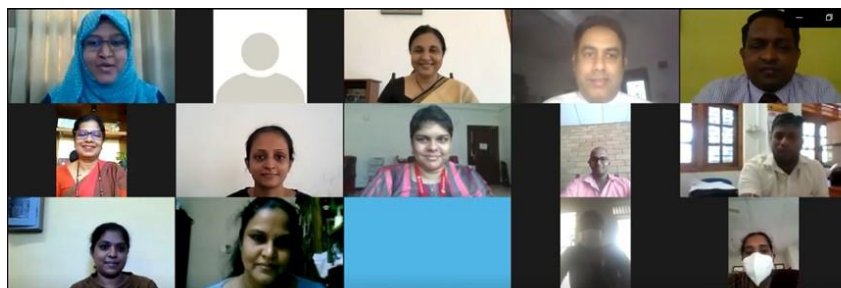
The inauguration ceremony was held virtually on 16<sup>th</sup> of July with the participation of many distinguished invitees including Senior Professor Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo. The closing ceremony was held virtually on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Nearly 300 officers from both mediums joined the training program. The training syllabus was designed according to the request of the National Child Protection Authority, covering a number of practical aspects required in their professional activities. The course focuses on the national and international aspects of human trafficking, legal remedies and mechanisms.

Laws related to human trafficking in Sri Lanka was extensively discussed in this training focusing on the core and practical legal principles. The aim of this program is to equip the officers to be educated with all the necessary theoretical and practical knowledge relevant to their field. A series of fruitful lectures were conducted during the training where the officers engaged actively with the lecturers in a very cordial and friendly manner. The Lectures were conducted by a distinguished panel of lecturers from a number of institutions, including the Attorney General's Department and the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo. The lectures were based on the Training Manual authored by the CSHR.



## Highlights of the Inauguration





# HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH

## RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

CSHR embarked on research project to investigate the nexus between of language rights and gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in Sri Lanka a In June, with the support of the National Languages Equality Advancement Project (NLEAP), with the goal of identifying ways to mainstream GEWE as a key component in the implementation of language rights policies and programs. Understanding the gaps in ground realities is key to promote language rights with an emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The research is spearheaded by Professor Wasantha Seneviratne, Director/CSHR and Chair Professor in Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo with the passionate contribution by Dr Rose Wijeyesekera, Professor Nishara Fernando, Mr M.A.M. Hakeem, and Dr S.K. Kannathas (University of Jaffna).



**INCEPTION MEETING**  
**RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS AND**  
**GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**  
**HELD ON JULY 08, 2021**



Dr Nishantha Sampath  
Punchihewa  
Dean, Faculty of Law  
University of Colombo



Professor N. Selvakkumaran,  
Head - School of Law (SLIIT),  
Former Commissioner and  
Former Chairperson of the  
Official Language Commission  
Former Dean,  
Faculty of Law  
University of Colombo



Mr Don Brownell  
The Director  
National Languages Equality  
Advancement Project  
(NLEAP)



Mr. M. Thirunavukarasu  
Project Deputy Director  
National Languages Equality  
Advancement Project



Ms Maduka Perera  
Former Program Manager  
Centre for Study of Human Rights  
University of Colombo

Senior Researchers of the Project



Professor Wasantha Seneviratne  
Principal Investigator  
Head of the Department of Public and  
International Law  
Director, Centre for the Study of Human Rights  
Faculty of Law, University of Colombo



Dr Rose Wijeyesekera  
Former Head  
Department of Private and Comparative Law  
Faculty of Law, University of Colombo



Prof Nishara Fernando  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Sociology  
Faculty of Arts  
University of Colombo



Mr M.A.M. Hakeem  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Public & International Law  
University of Colombo  
Deputy Director  
Center for the Study of Human Rights



Dr S.K. Kannathas  
Head of the Department of Translation Studies  
Senior Lecturer English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU)  
University of Jaffna

Funded by



Supported by



ජාතික භාෂා සමානාත්මතා අයිතිවාසිකම් වසාපාලනය  
தேசிய மொழிகள் சமத்துவ மேம்பாட்டுச் செயற்குறிப்பு  
National Languages Equality Advancement Project

Implemented by



CSHR hosted the NLEAP research project's inception meeting, with the participation of Mr. Don Brownell, Director NLEAP; Dr Nishantha Sampath Punchihewa, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo; Professor N. Selvakkumaran, Head - School of Law (SLIIT), Former Commissioner and Chairperson of the Official Language Commission and former Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo; Mr Wipula Dahanayake, Development Officer, High

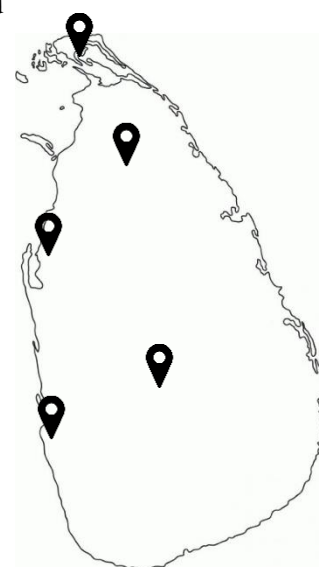
13 | Page

Commission of Canada; Dr. Ramani Jayasundere, Director, Justice and Gender Programs, The Asia Foundation; Ms Saama Rajakaruna, Gender Specialist – NLEAP and representatives from the universities, partner institutions and NLEAP.



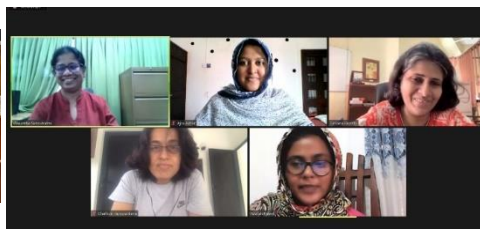
representing linguistic diversity.

In order to guarantee the quality of field data collection, CSHR conducted a two-day online training and orientation program in October 2021 to field researchers who were selected from the multiple research locations,



Field work of the project was carried out in 5 Divisional Secretariat (DS) Divisions of 3 Provinces in Sri Lanka, namely, Wanathawillu DS area in the Northwestern province, Nuwaraeliya DS area in the Central province, Vavuniya DS area and Jaffna DS area in the Northern province, and Dehiwala DS area in the Western province.

85 community members and DS level key informants as well as 7 national key informants have been interviewed for the research. The report is due to be launched in late 2022.



*Data collection phase was conducted both physically and virtually*

## **RESEARCH ON “INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS IN SRI LANKA: A STUDY ON EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION GAP”**

The main objective of the community research is to understand the gap between the institutional rights mechanisms and the practical implementation of human rights and fundamental rights in Sri Lanka. This will further support to identify potential ways of strengthening the access to justice of grassroots communities and make policy recommendations. This community research can increase attention to the complex issues of the knowledge gap that compromise the rights of people living in marginalized communities. Because such research requires grassroots work in the

community, it enables the CSHR and FRIENDS to fully understand the unique local realities that may either impede or facilitate community interventions. In fact, recognition of the inequities in



human rights knowledge among identified communities and how they are associated with poverty, inadequate resources, lack of employment opportunities, gender, social hierarchies among many more other factors may lead to a renewed recognition that individuals are embedded within social, political, and economic systems that shape behaviours and access to justice.

Data collection was carried out by the research team at Chavakachcheri, Karainagar, Mahiyanganaya, Bibila and Puttalam. Data analysis and report writing are in progress.

## **CSHR JOURNAL**

CSHR welcomed submissions of manuscripts for publication in the CSHR journal under the focus area of “Ensuring human rights and democracy in post-armed conflict Sri Lanka”. Several thematic areas were offered, ranging from rule of law and democratization, women’s empowerment, LGBTIQI rights, transitional justice, disability rights, religious harmony, challenges to pluralism, child protection, and impact of PTA. More than 20 submissions were received and are being reviewed.

## **STUDENT RESEARCH**

CSHR’s student community in postgraduate and diploma programmes undertook diverse research endeavours in completion of their academic requirements during 2021. 210 students have engaged in research ranging on diverse issues within the fields of human rights and democratization: child protection and rights, impact on COVID 19 pandemic on marginalized groups, poverty and human rights, domestic violence, right to education, human rights violations of the police, online violence, child labour, right to information.



## KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Through knowledge sharing CSHR aims to provide multicultural and multidisciplinary knowledge services to keep pace with knowledge on human rights by creating awareness among diverse groups of persons at different levels. During the year, CSHR provided knowledge to students, academics, researchers and other persons through its Resource Centre, located within its premises.



The number of books in the Resource Centre increased over the year with 85 new books being added to the collection. The number of books available for referencing added up to approximately 4031.

The updated newspaper clippings service in Sinhala, Tamil and English fulfilled the requirement of latest information needed on a wide range of topics. Due to the Covid-19 situation the CSHR Resource Centre was closed over the year. Yet, the Resource Centre attributed to the need through the Open Access Library Database (OPAC) and the E- Resources module available at the CSHR Learning Management System.

The database is available at <http://opac.cshr.cmb.ac.lk:8080/jspui/>




The E-Resources Module is available at <https://lms.cshr.cmb.ac.lk/course/view.php?id=44>.

## Open Access E - Resources

[Home](#) / [Courses](#) / [Open Access E - Resources](#) / [E Resources](#)




The CSHR E Library provides resources related to Human Rights which are available on the internet.

The E Library is maintained by the CSHR Resource Centre.

 [Announcements](#)

### CSHR Publication

**Research Publications**

-  [The Normative Framework on Internal Displacement](#)
-  [Human Rights and the Unconvicted Prisoner](#)
-  [The White Cane](#)

A video was released on social media to educate the users on how to search the resources available at the CSHR Resource Centre through the OPAC. The video is available at the CSHR YouTube channel on

<https://youtu.be/0hCO7X6t66M>

## RIGHTS CASE LAW DATABASE



The database was founded to provide criminal free access to defense lawyers, human rights defenders, judges, prosecutors, law students and other interested parties the judgments delivered on Fundamental Rights cases by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. The beneficiaries of the database include criminal defendants, criminal defense lawyers, human rights advocates, state prosecutors, judges, and law students.

The database which was launched in 2021 is updated and maintained by CSHR throughout the year as a collaboration with the IBJ (international bridges to justice).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

In commemoration of the International Human Rights Day the CSHR organized a Talent Show for the staff, resource persons and the students. This unique experience was developed keeping in line with the theme for this year “Reducing Inequalities & Advancing Human Rights”. Everyone was given an opportunity to participate irrespective of their gender, age, education, etc. The talent stage unveiled with 13 songs, poems, speech and dancing presentations. The students, alumni, present and former staff members of CSHR took part in this unique event enthusiastically.



## CELEBRATION OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CSHR

### • WEBINARS

The Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR), Faculty of Law, University of Colombo was established in 1991 as a result of many human rights violations that took place in the country in the late 1980s. Year 2021 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CSHR and it celebrates the thirty years of excellence in human rights education, research, community outreach and dissemination of knowledge by hosting multiple events and programs. List of events to fest the anniversary includes conducting series of webinars, featuring a photography competition, launching a remarkable newsletter, publishing CSHR journal, releasing a video recording of CSHR and a memorable souvenir and the ceremonial opening of the Late Justice C G Weeramantry's Collection of Books.

**WEBINAR ON**

**IMPACT OF PANDEMIC ON CHILDREN'S EDUCATION**

**UPHOLDING 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION & RESEARCH**  
Centre for the Study of Human Rights  
Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

**MODERATOR**

**Mr. MAM Hakeem**  
Deputy Director  
Centre for the Study of Human Rights  
Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Law  
University of Colombo

**SPEAKERS**

**Prof. Wasantha Senewiratne**  
Director  
Centre for the Study of Human Rights  
Professor of Public and International Law  
Head of the Department of  
Public and International Law  
Faculty of Law  
University of Colombo

**Prof. Vidyajyothi Harendra de Silva**  
Prof. Emerita of Pediatrics (CO) MBBS,  
DCH, FRCPL, MSc,  
Diploma in Paediatrics  
Founder, Chairman NCPA  
Senior Kanaka Fellow

**Ms. Milani Salpitikoral**  
Attorney at Law  
Founder of Child Protection Force

**07 OCTOBER 2021 (THURSDAY) | 06:00 PM ONWARDS**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**  
[HTTPS://LEARN.ZOOM.US/J/6889332276?pwd=VFZ5Z3Z3SU9RRLNREXUQT09](https://learn.zoom.us/j/6889332276?pwd=VFZ5Z3Z3SU9RRLNREXUQT09)  
MEETING ID: 688 933 2276  
PASSCODE: WEBINAR7

In Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights

In commemoration of 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, two webinars were hosted by CSHR. First was under the topic of **“Impact of Pandemic on Children’s Education”** held on 07 October featured by Prof. Vidyajyothi Harendra de Silva, Founder Chairmen National Child Protection Authority, who specifically focused on ‘Mental Health of Children during the Pandemic’ and by Ms. Milani Salpitikoral, Attorney-at-Law and Founder of Child Protection Force, who exclusively attended to the topic of ‘Access to Education - Homeschooling and Online Learning by Children’.

The Second webinar was under the topic of **“Emergency Regulations and Fundamental Rights”** featured by President’s Counsel Mr. Nigel Hatch, member of the Board of Management of CSHR and Dr Dinesha Samararatne, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

**WEBINAR NO.03**

**UPHOLDING 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION & RESEARCH**  
Centre for the Study of Human Rights  
Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

**EMERGENCY REGULATIONS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

**SPEAKERS**

**Dr. Dinesha Samararatne**  
Senior Lecturer  
Department of Public and  
International Law  
Faculty of Law  
University of Colombo

**Mr. Nigel Hatch**  
President's Counsel  
Member of the Board of Management,  
CSHR

**MODERATOR**

**Ms. Kaushalya Arjappah**  
Academic Coordinator - MHRD  
Centre for the Study of Human Rights

**08 NOVEMBER 2021 (MONDAY)**  
**06:00 PM ONWARDS**

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**  
[HTTPS://LEARN.ZOOM.US/J/632997970747](https://learn.zoom.us/j/632997970747)  
PW0=5ZLPH0RHRJ0ZENENZHXM3IXVMPHQTO9  
MEETING ID: 632 997 9707  
PASSCODE: UZW6V@BW

In Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights



- **PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

A Photography Competition under the topic of “Upholding Humanity” was organized as another event to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. It was open to the general public and the submissions were accepted until 20 November 2021.

**30** 1991-2021  
Upholding 30 Years of Excellence in Human Rights Education & Research  
Centre for the Study of Human Rights  
Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Commemorating 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**PHOTOGRAPHY  
COMPETITION**  
ON  
**UPHOLDING  
HUMANITY**

**Final date for submissions:  
20 November 2021**

The winning photographs will be published on the Anniversary Publications

- First place & Second Place - Souvenir
- Third Place - Newsletter
- All the participants will be awarded a "Certificate of Participation"
- All entries will be displayed at a virtual exhibition

**First Prize  
Rs. 10,000**  
**Second Prize  
Rs. 7500**  
**Third Prize  
Rs. 5000**

**Visit [cshr.cmb.ac.lk](http://cshr.cmb.ac.lk) for more information**  
**[secretary@cshr.cmb.ac.lk](mailto:secretary@cshr.cmb.ac.lk) | 0112 500879**

- **CEREMONIAL OPENING OF LATE JUSTICE PROFESSOR CG WEERAMANTRY’S COLLECTION OF BOOKS**

The Ceremonial Opening of the Late Justice Professor CG Weeramantry’s Collection of Books at the CSHR Resource Centre was held on 26 October 2021 on a virtual platform with the participation of family members of Late Justice CG Weeramantry, Members of the Board of Management of CSHR, academics of Faculty of Law, University of Colombo and distinguished guests from Sri Lanka and abroad. The event was hosted as a part of CSHR’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

celebration. Family members of Late Justice Weeramantry donated the invaluable collection of books belonged to highly respected jurist, philosopher, professor and former Vice President of the International Court of Justice.

This graceful event began with the virtual lighting of the oil lamp followed by welcome remarks by the Director of CSHR, Professor Wasantha Seneviratne. Professor Nishantha Sampath Punchihewa, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo and Senior Professor Chandrika N Wijeyaratne, Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo addressed the event by sharing insightful thoughts and informative views. The virtual ribbon cutting by the Vice Chancellor symbolized the ceremonial opening of library. Subsequently, all the participants had a virtual walkthrough of the collection of books referred by Justice Weeramantry, displayed at the CSHR Resource Centre. Additionally, an inspiring note from Dr. Rohan Perera, Former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and a remarkable speech by Professor Naazima Kamardeen, of the Department of Commercial Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo on the title of “Contribution made by Late Justice Professor C G Weeramantry for the Development of International Law” adorned the occasion.



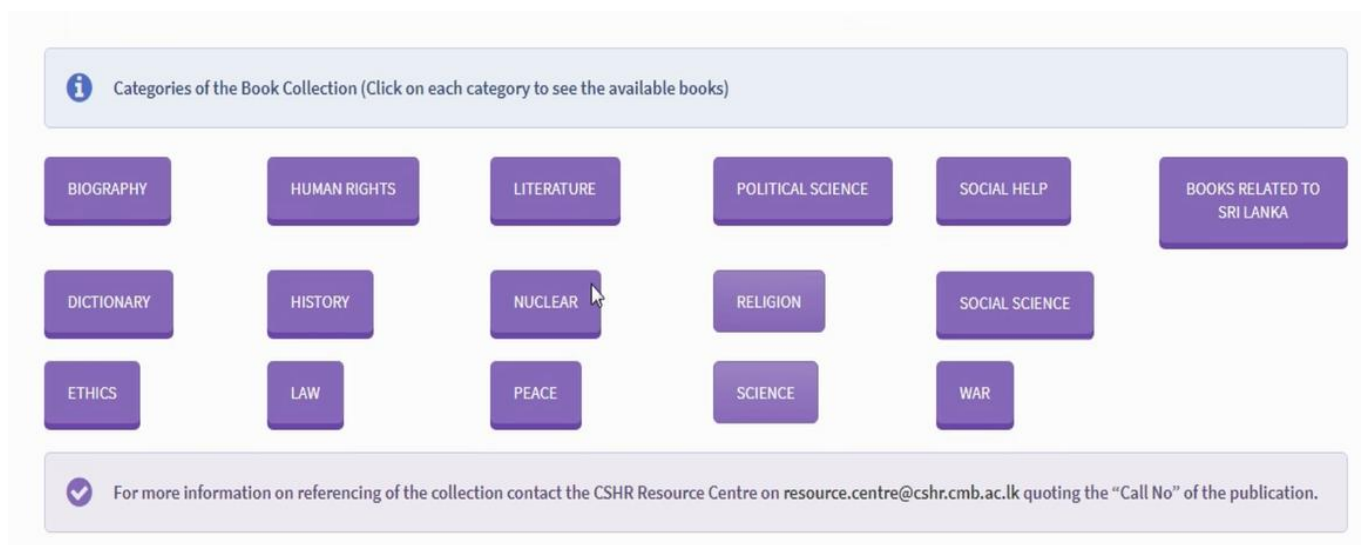
By the invitation of CSHR Professor Romesh Weeramantry, Head of International Dispute Settlement at the NUS Centre for International Law and an Adjunct Professor at the National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law joined the event from abroad representing the family of Late Justice Weeramantry. He cherished the event by



enunciating a unique perspective about his beloved father and expressed the enthusiasm to visit CSHR Resource Centre no sooner the travel restrictions are relaxed. Subsequently he launched the online database which is accessible via the following link <https://cshr.cmb.ac.lk/professor-c-g-weeramantrys-collection-of-books/>

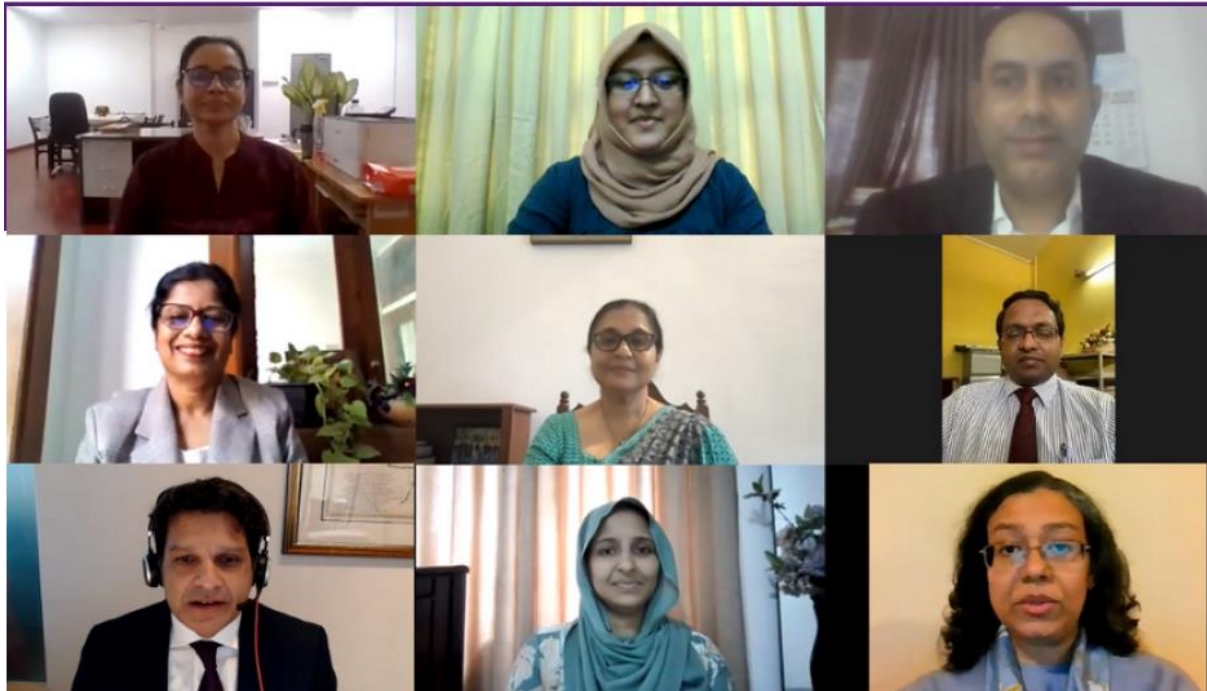


The collection is categorized under Biography, Human Rights, Literature, Political Science, Social Help, Dictionary, History, Nuclear, Religion, Social Science, Ethics, Law, Peace, Science, War and 'Books Related to Sri Lanka'.





The event concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Mr. M A M Hakeem, The Deputy Director of CSHR. The organizing committee of this event is headed by Ms. Mahesha Abeywickrema Documentation and Information Officer and comprised with Ms. Thilini Chandrasekara, Information Technology Officer; Mr. Ruwan Chandrasena, the Library Attendant; Ms. Rajendran Pavithra, Ms. Ajra Azhar, Ms. Eranga Dissanayke and all the staff members who tirelessly worked towards the success of this event.



The video of the event is available in the CSHR YouTube channel

**You Tube** (<https://youtu.be/tGnQ1wjBqwM>).



- **ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES**
- **CSHR TEAM**

## ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

#### CHAIRPERSON



**Senior Professor  
Chandrika N  
Wijeyaratne**  
Vice Chancellor  
University of  
Colombo

#### DIRECTORS



**Professor Wasantha  
Seneviratne**  
Director, CSHR



**Mr. M A M  
Hakeem**  
Deputy Director,  
CSHR



**Professor Indira  
Nanayakkara  
(up to June)**  
Dean, Faculty of Law



**Mr. Prasanth Lal  
De Alwis**  
President's Counsel



**Mr. Nigel Hatch**  
President's Counsel



**Dr. Dayani Panagoda**  
Director Technical- Social  
Cohesion and Reconciliation at  
Global Communities

#### MEMBERS



**Professor (Dr.) N S  
Punchihewa (From June)**  
Dean, Faculty of Law



**Deshamanya Dr Radhika  
Coomaraswamy**  
Former UN Secretary-General's  
Special Representative



**Professor Muditha  
Vidanapathirana**  
Former Chairperson – National  
Child Protection Authority



**Professor (Dr.) Nishara  
Fernando**  
Faculty of Arts



**Ms. Manouri  
Muttetuwegama  
(Up to July)**  
Barrister, Attorney-at-Law



**Dr. Geoffrey  
Alagaratnam**  
President's Counsel



**Professor (Dr.)  
Kumudinie  
Dissanayake**  
Faculty of Management  
and Finance



**Professor (Dr.)  
Kokila Konasinghe**  
Faculty of Law

## **ACADEMIC COMMITTEE**

**Professor Indira Nanayakkara**, Dean, Faculty of Law (up to June)

**Professor (Dr.) N S Punchihewa**, Dean, Faculty of Law (From June)

**Professor Wasantha Seneviratne**, Director, CSHR

**Mr. M A M Hakeem**, Deputy Director, CSHR

**Mr. Prasantha Lal De Alwis**, President's Counsel

**Professor (Dr.) Nishara Fernando**, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo

## **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Professor Indira Nanayakkara**, Dean, Faculty of Law (up to June)

**Professor (Dr.) N S Punchihewa**, Dean, Faculty of Law (From June)

**Professor Wasantha Seneviratne**, Director, CSHR

**Mr. M A M Hakeem**, Deputy Director, CSHR

**Mr. Nigel Hatch**, President's Counsel

**Professor (Dr.) Kumudinie Dissanayake**, Faculty of Management and Finance,  
University of Colombo

## **CSHR TEAM**

### **DIRECTOR**

#### **Professor S S M W Seneviratne**

Professor of Public and International Law (Chair)

LL.B. (Hons), M.Phil., Attorney-at-Law

Head, Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo

### **DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

#### **Mr. M A M Hakeem**

LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M., Attorney-at-Law

Senior Lecturer, Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law

University of Colombo

### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

#### **Acting Administrative Officer | Finance Officer**

**Thushari Hewage** ICASL Intermediate

#### **Assistant Finance Officer**

**Shamila Nadarasa** ICMA Managerial Level., Diploma in Business Accounting

#### **Secretary**

##### **Kunthala Sewwandi Fernando**

Advanced Diploma in Company Administration and Secretarial Proficiency, Diploma in English, Chartered Accountancy – Foundation Level (ICASL)

#### **Office Assistant**

**Luxman Wijelal**

### **PROJECT STAFF / RESEARCH STAFF**

#### **Project Manager**

##### **Maduka Perera (Up to August)**

BSc (Hons) Agriculture, MEcon, Diploma in Project Management

##### **Chathuri Jayawardena (From September)**

BA in Demography, English, International Relations; MA in International Law & Human Rights; MA in Political Science

**Project Officer****Lekha Herath**

LL. B, Attorney-at-Law, MA in Sociology

**Project Coordinator****Azafah Kaleel (From July)**

BA (Hons) in Sociology, Diploma in English

**W A Sumudu Thilanka (Up to February)**

BA (Hons) in Sociology

**Sabitha George (Up to July)**

BA (Hons) in Geography

**Assistant Project Coordinator****Dhayalini Sivalingam (From August)**

BA (Hons) in Economics

**Assistant Programme Coordinator****Gayathri Hiripitiya (From September)**

Diploma in Advance English for Administration &amp; Academic Purposes, National Certificate in ICT

**Tharanga Gunasekara**

AAT, NVQ Level 4 in ICT Technician

**Nisansala Gurusinghe**

Advanced Diploma in Business Management, NVQ Level 4 in ICT Technician

**Information Technology Officer (E-Learning and Web Administration)****Thilini Chandrasekera**

BSc. Special (Hons) IT, Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations

**Intern****Eranga Dissanayake**

LL. B, Diploma in International Relations, Diploma in Commercial Law, Diploma in Tamil

**Ajra Azhar**

LL. B (Hons), Attorney-at-Law, Diploma in Commercial Arbitration

## **RESOURCE CENTRE STAFF**

### **Documentation and Information Officer**

**Mahesha Abeywickrema**

ALA (Sri Lanka), Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information, Diploma in Journalism

### **Library Attendant**

**Ruwan Chandrasena**

## **ACADEMIC COORDINATORS**

### **Master of Human Rights and Democratization**

**Dr. Kaushalya Ariyaratne** PhD, MA, LL.B, Attorney-at-Law

### **Postgraduate Diploma in Child Protection and Rights**

**Dr. Udapadie Liyanage** PhD, MPhil, LL.B (Hons), Attorney-at-Law

### **Diploma in Human Rights Based Policing**

**Dr. Darshana Sumanadasa** PhD, LL. M, LL. B (Hons), Attorney-at-Law

### **Diploma in Human Rights and Democratization**

**Dr. U. A. T. Udayanganie** PhD, LL. M, LL.B (Hons), Attorney-at-Law

### **E Diploma in Human Rights**

**Dr. Nishara Mendis** PhD, LL.M, LL. B (Hons), Attorney-at-Law

### **Advanced Certificate in Human Rights and International Human Rights Law**

**Ms. Thilini Galappaththige** LL. B (Hons), Attorney-at-Law

### **Advanced Certificate and Certificate in Child Care and Rights**

**Ms. G I D I Udani** LL.M, LL. B (Hons), Attorney-at-Law

### **Certificate on Human Rights and Fundamental Rights**

**Ms. Chathurika Akurugoda** LL. M, LL. B (Hons), Attorney-at-Law

### **Certificate on Law and the Citizen**

**Ms. Chathurika Akurugoda** LL. M, LL. B (Hons), Attorney-at-Law